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Follow-up to the commemoration of the two-hundredth anniversary of the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade

Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Bahamas, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Brazil, Chile, China, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, India, Jamaica, Mauritania*, Peru, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Singapore, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of): draft resolution

Permanent memorial to and remembrance of the victims of slavery and the transatlantic slave trade

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 61/19 of 28 November 2006, entitled "Commemoration of the two-hundredth anniversary of the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade" and subsequent resolutions entitled "Permanent memorial to and remembrance of the victims of slavery and the transatlantic slave trade",

Recalling also the designation of 25 March as the annual International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade,

Noting the initiatives undertaken by States in reaffirming their commitment to implement paragraphs 101 and 102 of the Durban Declaration of the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, aimed at countering the legacy of slavery and contributing to the restoration of the dignity of the victims of slavery and the slave trade,[1]

Recalling, in particular, paragraph 101 of the Durban Declaration, which, inter alia, invited the international community and its members to honour the memory of the victims,

Stressing the importance of educating and informing current and future generations about the causes, consequences and lessons of slavery and the transatlantic slave trade,

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of African States.

[1] See A/CONF.189/12 and Corr.1, chap. I.

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Recognizing how little is known about the transatlantic slave trade and its lasting consequences, felt throughout the world, and welcoming the increased attention that the General Assembly's annual commemoration has brought to the issue, including raising awareness in many States,

Recalling that the permanent memorial initiative within the General Assembly complements the work being done at the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on the Slave Route Project, including its commemorative activities,

1. *Welcomes* the initiative of Member States to erect, at a place of prominence at United Nations Headquarters that is easily accessible to delegates, United Nations staff and visitors, a permanent memorial in acknowledgement of the tragedy and in consideration of the legacy of slavery and the transatlantic slave trade;

2. *Recalls* the establishment of a committee of interested States to oversee the permanent memorial project, drawn from all geographical regions of the world, with Member States from the Caribbean Community and the African Union playing a primary role, in collaboration with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, representatives of the Secretariat, the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture of the New York Public Library and civil society;

3. *Also recalls* the establishment of a trust fund for the permanent memorial, referred to as the United Nations Trust Fund for Partnerships Permanent Memorial, administered by the United Nations Office for Partnerships, and notes the current status of contributions to the Trust Fund;

4. *Recognizes* the necessity of sustained voluntary contribution in order to achieve in a timely manner the goal of erecting a permanent memorial in honour of the victims of slavery and the transatlantic slave trade;

5. *Expresses sincere appreciation* to those Member States that have already made contributions to the Trust Fund, encourages additional contributions, and invites Member States and other interested parties that have not done so to do likewise;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to organize a series of activities annually to commemorate the International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade, including a commemorative session of the General Assembly at United Nations Headquarters and, as appropriate, activities through the network of United Nations information centres;

7. *Requests* the Department of Public Information, in cooperation with the countries concerned and with relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, to continue to take appropriate steps to enhance world public awareness of the commemorative activities and the permanent memorial initiative, and to facilitate efforts to erect the permanent memorial at United Nations Headquarters;

8. *Reiterates its request* contained in resolution 64/15 of 16 November 2009 for Member States to develop, in accordance with their national legislation, educational programmes, including through school curricula, designed to educate and inculcate in future generations an understanding of the lessons, history and

consequences of slavery and the slave trade, and to provide such information to the Secretary-General for inclusion in his report;

9. *Encourages* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to launch an international design competition for the permanent memorial, which is to be funded from the Trust Fund, in view of the considerable experience of that Organization with the Slave Route Project, international competitions and its worldwide presence through its network of field offices and National Commissions;

10. *Invites* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to assist the committee in defining guidelines for the selection process and in identifying qualified candidates from its pool of international specialists to serve on the international jury;

11. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the programme of educational outreach on the transatlantic slave trade and slavery,[7] relating to the diverse educational outreach strategy to increase awareness of and to educate future generations about the causes, consequences, lessons and legacy of the transatlantic slave trade and to communicate the dangers of racism and prejudice, and encourages continued action in this regard;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session on continued action to implement the programme of educational outreach, including actions taken by Member States in implementing the present resolution, as well as steps to enhance world public awareness of the commemorative activities and the permanent memorial initiative;

13. *Requests* the United Nations Office for Partnerships, through the Secretary-General, to submit a comprehensive report to the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session on the status of the Trust Fund, and in particular, on contributions received and their utilization;

14. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-sixth session the item entitled "Follow-up to the commemoration of the two-hundredth anniversary of the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade".

[7] A/65/390.